

Course Name: Language Arts Grade 8
Course #: 1822

Course Description: Aligned to the Common Core Standards, the eighth grade language arts course is designed to develop critical readers and writers through reinforcing and refining essential literacy skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Students are exposed to a variety of genres: drama, poetry, and contemporary and traditional texts in fiction and nonfiction. Classroom instruction emphasizes literature discussion, meaningful written response to literature, vocabulary development, and application of reading strategies. As part of this course, students also participate in independent reading in order to foster a love of reading and encourage life-long learning.

Course Proficiencies: The following is a list of proficiencies that describe what students are expected to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing this course. The proficiencies are the basis of the assessment of student achievement. The learner will demonstrate the ability to:

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (NJSL.S.RL&I.8.1.)
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, plot, and supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text. (NJSL.S.RL&I.8.2.)
- Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (NJSL.S.RL.8.3.)
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories). (NJSL.S.RI.8.3.)
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. (NJSL.S.RL&I.8.4.)
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. (NJSL.S.RL.8.5.)
- Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept. (NJSL.S.RI.8.5.)
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor. (NJSL.S.RL.8.6.)
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. (NJSL.S.RI.8.6.)
- Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors. (NJSL.S.RL.8.7.)
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea. (NJSL.S.RI.8.7.)

- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced. (NJSLS.RI.8.8.)
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new. (NJSLS.RL.8.9.)
- Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation. (NJSLS.RI.8.9.)
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, poems, and literary nonfiction, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently. (NJSLS.RL.8.10.)
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. (NJSLS.W.8.1.)
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (NJSLS.W.8.2.)
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. (NJSLS.SL.8.1.)
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation. (NJSLS.SL.8.2.)
- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced. (NJSLS.SL.8.3.)
- Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation. (NJSLS.SL.8.4.)
- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (NJSLS.SL.8.5.)
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (NJSLS.SL.8.6.)
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. (NJSLS.L.8.1.)
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. (NJSLS.L.8.2.)
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. (NJSLS.L.8.3.)
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. (NJSLS.L.8.4.)
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. (NJSLS.L.8.5.)

- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. (NJSLS.L.8.6.)
- Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment. (NJSLS. 9.2.12.C.1)
- Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans. (NJSLS.9.2.12.C.3)
- Use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge. (NJSLS.T.8.1)
- Develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment. (NJSLS.T.8.2)

Assessments:

1. Tests/Quizzes
2. Open-ended responses and essays
3. Classroom discussion
4. Individual and group projects
5. Multimedia presentations
6. Portfolios

Board Adopted Materials:

Title: **Writers Inc.**
 Author: Sebranek, P., Meyer, V., Kemper, D.
 Publisher: Great Source Education Group (Houghton Mifflin Company)
 Copyright: 2001

Title: **Vocabulary Workshop (NJSLS.Level C)**
 Author: Shostak, Jerome
 Publisher: Sadlier-Oxford
 Copyright: 1996